

Attn Sara J. Clark, Department Secretary.

Hello.

My name is Andre Pierre and I am resident of the town of Petersham.

I am also an IT Consultant and Systems Administrator.

I attended the MBI Public meeting on 5/24 in Amherst, MA and wanted to submit a comment.

I believe MBI should allocate funds to the towns of Hardwick and Montague and allow them to build a network with Matrix Design, as is so clearly their preference.

MBI's stewardship of state funds is important, but is just **one** of the considerations here.

By allowing Matrix Design to build and operate a fiber-to-the-home network for these (and possibly other) towns it will make the technical infrastructure in this whole geographic area more resilient and robust.

The more internet providers there are in a region the more redundancy in data-links and routing paths is possible.

This allows civic agencies, first-responders and businesses to route around problems affecting any one of the major providers.

That is **always** desirable. Remember the Internet is a network of networks!

Economic competition and consumer choice are other forms of diversity that should be encouraged by MBI (and the Department of Telecommunications and Cable) in addition to the architectural diversity mentioned above.

Thanks for your time and consideration.